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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/756,805	01/09/2001	Satoru Kikugawa	74457/08126	6166

33356 7590 01/09/2006
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EXAMINER

SHINGLES, KRISTIE D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2141

DATE MAILED: 01/09/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/756,805

Applicant(s)

KIKUGAWA, SATORU

Examiner

Kristie Shingles

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>12/9/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Applicant has amended claims 2, 5, 8 and 11.

Claims 1, 4, 7 and 10 are cancelled.

Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12 are pending.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 10/21/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

A. Regarding Claim 2 and cited prior art reference, *Uchino et al* (US 6,865,715), Applicant argues in substance that *Uchino et al* fails to disclose a “notable word” common to a message text posting and a first database.

A.1. Examiner respectfully disagrees. As illustrated in the drawings (Figures 4, 7, 25 and 33) of *Uchino et al*, *Uchino et al* clearly disclose the method of searching terms that are common to postings and text in the database. *Uchino et al*, teaches the keyword extraction device (col.3 lines 45-48), keywords being extracted from the documents and threads, and storing and indexing the keywords in a data structure for searching via author, title or keyword (col.2 lines 20-24, col.6 lines 18-47). Documents and threads are contained within the document group database and the data structures are formed from the entries in the database, wherein data is indexed by title, author and keywords (col.7 line 46-col.8 line 16, col.18 lines 11-26). Thus it is evident that *Uchino et al* teach keywords that are common to the documents/threads and to the database. Therefore, Applicant's arguments are non-persuasive, and the rejection under *Uchino et al* is maintained.

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- B. Regarding Claim 2 and the cited prior art reference, *Uchino et al* (US 6,865,715), Applicant argues in substance that *Uchino et al* fails to teach “a start instruction to a search report program, which reports a result of searching the second database by using the notable word as a keyword”.

B.1. Examiner respectfully disagrees. Evident in Figures 33 and 60, when searching for a keyword, a search report is generated which reports the resulting documents and text that contain the keyword. Furthermore it is possible to narrow or broaden the scope of the search by indicating certain conditions (col.6 lines 56-59). The “search program” of the claim language is achieved by *Uchino et al*'s disclosure of data structures and indices that are used to display and organize the results of the search, wherein a sorting process is initiated during the search to report the results of the search retrieval (col.12 lines 41-58, col.28 lines 31-63). Thus Applicant's arguments are non-persuasive, and the rejection under *Uchino et al* is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. **Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11 and 12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Uchino et al* (USPN 6,865,715).

a. **Per claim 2**, *Uchino et al* teach an electronic bulletin board system including a server computer with an electronic bulletin board function communicating with at least one user

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computer via a network for mediating information exchange therebetween, said server computer comprising:

- a first database as a notable words collection storing a plurality of words that are appropriately selected (col.2 lines 20-39, col.3 lines 32-56, col.6 lines 32-52, col.7 line 57-col.8 line16; keyword extraction device and summation device);
- a second database storing a plurality of records with text data (col.7 lines 3-9 and col.20 lines 46-63; document group database and secondary storage device);
- a logic device inspecting a message text sent from a user computer of a person who wants to post a message by consulting the notable words collection (col.7 line 65-col.8 line 42, col.11 line 59-col.12 line 60, col.13 lines 36-48 and col.19 lines 44-62; provision for analysis unit to detect and extract keywords from messages),
- wherein the message text is posted on the bulletin board when the message text does not include a notable word in the notable words collection (col.8 line 63-col.10 line 40 and col.11 line 11-col.12 line 25; if message does not include a keyword that is in database, it is added and message continues procession onto the bulletin board);
- the second database is searched by using the notable word as a keyword when the message text includes a notable word in the notable words collection, and if no records including the notable word exist in the second database, then the message text is posted on the bulletin board (col.7 line 3-col.8 line 36, col.11 lines 17-58, col.15 line 48-col.16 line 8 and col.18 lines 49-67; searches database for the extracted word, if word is not in database, it is added and message continues procession onto the bulletin board);
- when a record including the notable word exists as a result of searching the second database, the word in the message text is converted into a hypertext format having a URL generated properly to which the word is linked as a link destination, and the message text is posted on the bulletin board, the URL being so described as to constitute a start instruction to a search report program, which reports a result of searching the second database by using the notable word as a keyword (col.1 lines 32-58, col.12 line 18-col.13 line 59, col.14 line 58-col.15 line 17 and col.16 line 5-67; keywords are converted into HTML for linking other related document threads by the URL, which will display the results and threads of the other bulletin board messages with the keyword), and
- when the URL is sent from a specific user computer, the search report program is executed to return a set of report screen data of the search result to the specific

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user computer (col.6 lines 30-64, col.12 lines 27-51, col.13 lines 36-48, col.16 lines 60-67, col.17 lines 6-28, col.18 line 58-col.19 line 62, col.21 lines 8-11; HTML document report displays of keyword view, thread view or author view of search results).

b. **Claims 5, 8 and 11** contain limitations that are substantially equivalent to claim 2 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

c. **Per claim 3, *Uchino et al*** teach the electronic bulletin board system according to claim 2, wherein each record stored in the second database is linked with a corresponding URL, and the search report program generates a set of screen data including a hypertext having the URL to which the obtained record is linked as a link destination (col.1 lines 55-58, col.3 lines 45-56, col.12 line 41-col.13 line 35, col.15 lines 3-29 and col.16 lines 60-67).

d. **Claims 6, 9 and 12** are substantially equivalent to claim 3 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. *Knight et al* (USPN 6,571,234) disclose a system and method for managing online message board.
- b. *Smith et al* (USPN 6,594,673) disclose visualizations for collaborative information.
- c. *Gage et al* (USPN 5,923,846) disclose a method of uploading a message containing a file reference to a server and downloading a file from the server using the file reference.
- d. *Armstrong* (USPN 6,356,633) discloses an electronic mail message processing and routing for call center response to same.
- e. *Eichstaedt et al* (USPN 6,654,735) disclose outbound information analysis for generating user interest profiles and improving user productivity.

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- f. *Tabb et al* (USPN 5,787,416) disclose methods for hypertext reporting in a relational database management system.
- g. *Borman et al* (USPN 6,226,655) disclose a method and apparatus for retrieving data from a network using linked location identifiers.
- h. *Anthony* (USPN 5,815,830) discloses automatic generation of hypertext links to multimedia topic objects.
- i. *Rubinstein et al* (USPN 5,913,215) disclose browsing by prompted keyword phrases with an improved method for obtaining an initial document set.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristie Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kristie Shingles
Examiner
Art Unit 2141

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